



First Day of School



Story Contributors:

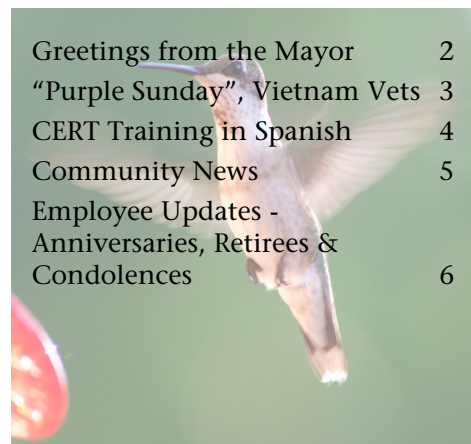
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"The great object of Education should be commensurate with the object of life. It should be a moral one; to teach self-trust: to inspire the youthful man with an interest in himself; with a curiosity touching his own nature; to acquaint him with the resources of his mind, and to teach him that there is all his strength, and to inflame him with piety towards the Grand Mind in which he lives. Thus would education conspire with the Divine Providence."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

The first day of school at St. William Head Start (4932 Easley St., Millington, TN) was exciting as well as intriguing to children and parents. For some children, the day started with their first bus ride to school.

As children and parents entered the building, they were greeted with smiles and handshakes from staff. Families were introduced to the Head Start center by touring the building and playground. Enrollees had the opportunity to explore the classrooms to get acquainted with the preschool setting.

During the first week of school, assessments and screenings were done in order to begin the planning process for each individual child. The Shelby County Head Start program will serve and educate over 3,000 children!

The Shelby County Government Head Start began the 2011-12 school year with the new theme, "Embracing the Vision." A three-day Pre-service session started with a welcome from John D. Lovelace, Head Start Director of Shelby County Government Head Start/Early Head Start agency and Dottie Jones, Director of Shelby County Government Community Services Executive Director. Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. addressed the team to speak about the importance of early childhood education and how it can have a positive impact on the outcomes in children's lives. There were over 500 participants.



Greetings from the Mayor



Mark Luttrell, Jr.

As mayor, I am faced with many challenges. Among those on the top of my list is the death of babies less than a year old in Shelby County. Recent medical statistics indicate a baby dies in our community every 43 hours—a rate higher than any other major city area.

That's why we have been educating young mothers throughout Shelby County on the basics of caring for themselves and their little ones. Through our Office of Early Childhood and Youth, events were held in August to highlight this disturbing issue.

Approximately 50 area churches have committed to help us by issuing awareness messages to their congregations. Volunteers are also working with our staff to knock on doors in areas where the highest number of infant deaths have occurred. It is my hope that more babies will survive through this renewed commitment to assist mothers.

To each of you in all divisions of Shelby County Government, thanks for your continued efforts to assist our community. I appreciate the privilege of serving alongside of you.

Mayor Luttrell on the Move...

- 08/01 Welcome at Head Start Pre-Service Training
- 08/01 28th Joint Conference on Juvenile Justice Awards
- 08/02 Uptown National Night Out
- 08/02 Frayser National Night Out
- 08/03 St. Jude Peoria Run Proclamation
- 08/04 Urban Education Center's Annual Practitioner's Summit
- 08/04 Waverly Farms Neighborhood Association
- 08/08 Soulsville Charter School New Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 08/10 Ben Hooks Scholarship Awards
- 08/10 2011 History Awards
- 08/11 Christ Community New Residency Track Event
- 08/11 Product Liability Lawyer Conference
- 08/11 Shelby County Citizens University
- 08/12 Warriors' Center Tour
- 08/16 Memphis Education Foundation
- 08/17 SunTrust Bank Economic Outlook 2011
- 08/17 Confucius Institute
- 08/17 Rangeline Neighborhood CDC
- 08/19 Memphis Youth Violence Prevention Initiative
- 08/19 US General Services Administration Event
- 08/20 2nd Annual "Walk Me Home..." 5k for Foster Care
- 08/20 Middle Baptist Church Picnic
- 08/21 Grace Church of Nazarene Community Service Appreciation Program
- 08/23 "Tennessee Achieves" Kick Off
- 08/23 Youth Leadership Bartlett
- 08/23 Island Fourth Association Neighborhood Meeting
- 08/25 UTHS Building Dedication
- 08/25 Philippine Ambassadors

- 08/25 Forum—"The Internet & Education to Improve the Quality of Life"
- 08/25 Shelby County Extension (UT) Master Gardeners
- 08/26 "The 19th Turns 91" Event
- 08/27 LaBonheur 5k
- 08/27 Greater Imani Church Watchmen
- 08/27 Social Bikers for Change Pep Rally
- 08/27 "Taste of Hospitality" Food Tasting
- 08/28 New Era National Youth Baseball Championship
- 08/29 Department of Justice visit to Memphis
- 08/29 Project Homeless Connect Press Conference
- 08/30 St. John's Community Service Awards
- 08/30 Head Start and Early Head Start: 2nd Annual Fall Kick Off
- 08/30 The Annual Health Care Heroes Awards
- 08/31 Economic Stability Summit



Mayor Luttrell was joined by Rep. Steve Cohen, Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, and the Soulsville Board and community to open the new wing of the Charter School.



Middle Baptist Church (Knight Arnold) celebrated its Membership Appreciation Day with a picnic. Mayor Luttrell was surrounded by Willie Walton, Bobby Jones, Rev. Lester Basken, and Kevin Jones.





Departmental News

Office of Early Childhood and Youth

Purple Sunday

September is nationally recognized as Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Because of Shelby County's Office of Early Childhood and Youth (OECY) long-standing work in this area, a campaign was launched in August to engage the faith-based community in our efforts to educate and call attention to the problem of infant mortality in our county.

The "Celebrate Life Purple Sunday" is a movement of hope and compassion, providing a vibrant, innovative mobilization of the faith-based community, acknowledging the suffering of our families and allowing us to instead be a voice that echoes "LIFE...Love it! ~ Live it! ~ Celebrate it!"

It is alarming that in Shelby County, a baby dies every 43 hours – a rate higher than that of any other major city. Our call to action is clear. The "Celebrate Life Purple Sunday" campaign affords faith-based institutions the opportunity to raise awareness through ministry.

For more information, contact Nicole Gates at 901-385-4224 or 901-229-4190, email:

nicole.gates@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Facebook: Shelby County Office of Early Childhood & Youth Website:

www.shelbycountychildren.org



Office of Veterans' Affairs

Vietnam Veterans of America Convention

Welcome Home!



Veteran Service Officer, Joseph Kyles attended the annual Vietnam Veterans of American Convention, hosted on August 16-20, 2011. This was the parade that welcomed the veterans in Reno, Nevada.

This is Kyle's recap of the convention:

"I had the opportunity to attend the 15th National Convention of the Vietnam Veterans of American in Reno, Nevada. "Welcome Home" was the phrase frequently heard at the convention. This phrase was seldom uttered to the many members of the Armed Forces upon returning home from Vietnam after their tour of duty.

On August 16, 2011, there was a *Welcome Home* Party. This gathering gave the participants an opportunity to reunite and reminisce with fellow veterans. Entertainment was provided along with food and beverages.

The theme was "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

Since 1983, Vietnam Veterans of American have supported veterans of other generations in their pursuit of health care and compensation for service-related diseases and disabilities. It was emphasized at the convention that Vietnam Veterans of American will continue to be committed to the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam-era veterans, their families and others.

Two distinguished guests at the convention were Richard Pimentel, a Vietnam Disabled Veteran, who has been a powerful advocate for veterans as well as all Americans with disabilities; and the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Shinseki assured the veterans that VA employees are committed to assist and support all veterans. As a Vietnam veteran, I was extremely honored to be able to participate with fellow veterans in discussing and planning ways in which we can help all veterans and support our troops that are currently serving our county.

I am returning to my office more committed and concerned with assisting the veterans of Shelby County and the surrounding areas in receiving the benefits they are entitled to under state and federal

Human Resources

Online Applications

Effective Monday, October 3, 2011, Shelby County Government (SCG) will transition to Online applications only.

To apply for SCG positions, all applicants (internal and external) must apply online.

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.shelbycountyttn.gov>.



Departmental News

Office of Preparedness

Estamos Preparados Para Desastres! (They are prepared for disasters!)



CERT students use an ABC fire extinguisher to put out a pan fire at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center. Eugene Jones, Office of Preparedness Oper. Officer/CERT instructor, lead a student to extinguish a fire. In the background is Cheryl Yarbrow, Interim Mgr/Training Officer, left, and Ivette Baldizon, Multicultural and Hispanic Affairs.



The Ramirez family were excited to learn about disaster preparedness in their own language. First row left to right standing, Ivette Baldizon, instructor, dents Gladis Arteaga, Adriana Ramirez, Sebastian Ramirez, Rodrigo Ramirez and Cheryl Yarbrow, CERT Instructor. 2nd row, Eugene Jones, CERT Instructor

"Hola!" and "Buenos Dias!" were the cheery greetings students received from their instructors as they entered the cavernous classroom to attend disaster preparedness training called Community Emergency Response Team or CERT.

On two consecutive Saturdays, 23 Spanish-speaking citizens gathered at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center for the first "Spanish CERT" training. The class was lead by Cheryl Yarbrow, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Interim Manager and Training Officer and Ivette Baldizon, Assistant to Shelby County Mayor on Multicultural and Hispanic Affairs.

After an introduction explaining the risks and hazards all citizens face living in Shelby County, topics included disaster preparedness, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, fire suppression, medical triage and first aid, hazardous materials, and terrorism.

Students followed along with a Spanish-translated Power Point presentation. It helped the class learn what to do before, during and after a disaster. They were taught when to shelter-in-place or evacuate, depending on the type of emergency they faced.

Following lectures and videos, students dressed out in helmets, reflective vests, goggles, masks and gloves to participate in the hands-on training. They formed a team to rescue a "victim" under rubble, to bandaged wounds, and to extinguished a contained fire.

Rodrigo Ramirez, whose family attended the class, remarked, "We are very interested in preparedness, knowing what to do to help ourselves and others." When asked what unexpected events his family was prepared for, he said, "Fires and earthquakes....and we are learning how to prepare for floods. We are sure we know what to do for each of these hazards now. The knowledge we learned here today has made the difference."

After demonstrating their new-found skills, the students graduated with a certificate, a CERT ID card, and most of all the confidence that they will survive the next disaster.

Ivette Baldizon, who served as the class interpreter, commented on the importance of this first Spanish CERT class, "During the recent flooding, the Hispanic community was most affected. Even though preparedness information in Spanish is available on computers from FEMA and Citizen Corps, many Hispanics may not have a computer in the home or ready access to one. What has been most effective for theses students is the hands-on training. They are so excited and want to use what they have learned here! It is wonderful that we are reaching out to this community through CERT." CERT is a Shelby County Citizen Corps initiative, available to all citizens. To find out more about CERT or register for a class, please email, citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov or call (901) 515-2525.



Community News



Above Left: Shelby County "Explorer" Team assisted with *The Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Riders' "Going Pink"* event.

Center: St. Jude Research Hospital received a donation from the "Peoria Runners" after a proclamation reading from Dan Springer of the Mayor's Office.

Below Left: "Purple Sunday—Infant Mortality Awareness" was celebrated by Erskine Gillespie, Mid South Transplant; Nicole Gates, Office of Early Childhood and Youth; Sheridan Smotherman,



Church Health Center Wellness-Faith Community Outreach; and Peggy Russell, Defending Childhood Initiative.

Above Right: Barbara Tolbert, Shelby County Sheriff's Dept. coordinated a "Going Pink" bike ride around the I-40/I-240 loop for breast cancer awareness.

Below Right: The Dept. of Justice representatives visited Trezevant High School during their follow up visit for the Memphis Youth Violence Preventions Plan.





COUNTY LINES

VOLUME II

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About Shelby County

Shelby County was established in 1819. It is the state's largest county both in terms of population and geographic area. Its county seat is Memphis. It is part of the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area, which comprises eight counties in the three states of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Shelby County was named for Governor Isaac Shelby (1750-1826) of Kentucky.

Shelby County is governed by a mayor-commissioner form of government under a Home Rule Charter that went into effect on September 1, 1986. Each serves a 4-year term. Together, the administration and the Board of County Commissioners are responsible for governing the most populous of Tennessee's 95 counties. The county's personnel staff of approximately 6,270 people have the direct duty of providing services for 910,100 citizens according to the 2007 estimated census data.

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., was elected as Shelby County Mayor on August 5, 2010.



AUGUST 2011 CONDOLENCES

Below is a list of employees who lost a loved one this month. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Relative</u>	<u>Relations</u>
Phillips, Genn	Corrections	Rubystein Hester	Sister
Johnson, Keisha	Fire Department	James Earline Woods	Grandmother
Sims, Anita	Central It	Name Not Provided	Brother

Anniversaries

AUGUST 2011

ANNIVERSARIES

35 Years of Service

Verdis T. McNutt
Health Department
Reginald K. Smith
Support Services

30 Years of Service

Billie Bolden, Sheriff's Office
Cecil Booker, Sheriff's Office
Charline McGhee, Sheriff's Office
Gloria Morris, Sheriff's Office
Stella Stegall, Trustee's Office
Thelma Stribling, Sheriff's Office
Dennis Tillman
Division of Corrections

25 Years of Service

Charlie Cobb, Support Services
Shirley Davis, Headstart
Susan Gylfe, Juvenile Court
Randy Johnson, Sheriff's Office
Kathleen Johnston
Health Department
Glenda Shaw, EOC

Retirees

AUGUST 2011 RETIREES

Employee, (Yrs of Svc) & Department

Carol A. Adams (25)
Community Services
Susie M. Allen (22)
Sheriff's Office
Robert Mitch Arnold (27)
Support Services
Cedric A. Bradley (25)
Health Services
Gloria J. Finch (24)
Sheriff's Office
Ronald Fraser (7 1/2)
Code Enforcement
Terrell Graves (25)
Attorney General
Ralph Mallory (21)
Juvenile Court
Jill F. Mitchell (13)
Fire Department
Valerie L. Schlichter (32)
The Med
Stanley B. Sellers (29)
Sheriff's Office
Thomas R. Stone (23)
Human Resources
Paulette A. Wilder (20)
Sheriff's Office

Shelby County Government Mayor's Office

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SHELBYCOUNTYTN.GOV